

Message Text

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ORIGIN COA-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 IO-13 ADP-00 COME-00 INT-08 EB-11

TRSE-00 AGR-20 SS-15 NSC-10 L-03 H-02 PA-03 PRS-01

USIA-12 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 CG-00 /148 R

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN PRIORITY

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: EFIS, OCON, XN

SUBJ: ICNAF: PRESS GUIDANCE

REF: COPENHAGEN 1378

1. REQUEST U. S. DEL TO SOVIET BILATERAL IMMEDIATE APPROVAL
FOR FOLLOWING PRESS RELEASE IN RESPONSE TO INQUIRIES AND
FOR CONGRESS:

A. THE TWENTY- THIRD ANNUAL MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL
COMMISSION FOR THE NORTHWEST ATLANTIC FISHERIES CONCLUDED
ON JUNE 15 WITHOUT REACHING AGREEMENT ON U. S. PROPOSALS
TO RESOLVE CONSERVATION PROBLEMS AND TO PROTECT
SPECIALIZED U. S. FISHERIES OFF THE NEW ENGLAND COAST AND
IN THE MID- ATLANTIC AREA.

B. AT THE MEETING THE U. S. COMMISSIONERS TO ICNAF PRO-
POSED THAT THE FISHING EFFORT BY FOREIGN VESSELS OFF THE
NEW ENGLAND COAST BE SUBSTANTIALLY REDUCED; THAT ADDITION-
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AL REGULATORY MEASURES BE ADOPTED TO PROVIDE FURTHER PROTECTION FOR IMPORTANT SPECIES; AND THAT THE SCHEME OF JOINT ENFORCEMENT BE EXPANDED TO PROVIDE FOR DETENTION OF FISHING VESSELS FOUND IN VIOLATION OF ICNAF REGULATIONS BY ENFORCEMENT VESSELS OF ANY MEMBER STATE.

C. THE ICNAF MEMBER STATES REACHED GENERAL AGREEMENT THAT SOME REGULATION BEYOND THE CURRENT QUOTA ALLOCATION

SYSTEM FOR INDIVIDUAL SPECIES WAS NEEDED. MOST MEMBER STATES, HOWEVER, BELIEVED THAT FURTHER STUDY WAS REQUIRED BEFORE THE U. S. PROPOSAL ON EFFORT LIMITATION COULD BE IMPLEMENTED. AN ALTERNATIVE SUGGESTION WAS ADVANCED FOR AN OVERALL CATCH QUOTA IN ADDITION TO INDIVIDUAL QUOTAS WHICH WOULD BE LESS THAN THE SUM OF THE INDIVIDUAL QUOTAS. THE U. S. DEL AGREED TO EXPLORE THIS ON AN INTERIM BASIS BUT ONLY AS A PART OF AN OVERALL PACKAGE INCLUDING THOSE ELEMENTS PROPOSED BY THE U. S. COMMISSIONERS. THIS WOULD INCLUDE (1) REQUIREMENTS FOR LARGE VESSELS TO USE MORE SELECTIVE FISHING GEAR TO MINIMIZE THE BYCATCH OF PROTECTED SPECIES IN AREAS WHERE FISH STOCKS MIX (2) IMPROVED NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ENFORCEMENT AND (3) IMPROVED RESOURCE ASSESSMENT WORK AND STATISTICAL DATA.

D. THE MAJORITY OF MEMBER STATES FAILED TO AGREE ON AN OVERALL QUOTA PROVIDING FOR SUFFICIENT REDUCTION TO ACHIEVE THE U. S. GOAL OF REBUILDING THE FISHERY RESOURCES. THE U. S. DEL THEREFORE ELECTED TO WITHHOLD ITS AGREEMENT ON QUOTAS FOR INDIVIDUAL STOCKS IN SUBAREAS 5 AND 6 BECAUSE INDIVIDUAL QUOTAS WOULD RESULT IN CONTINUED OVERFISHING AS THEY FAIL TO ADEQUATELY ADDRESS THE BYCATCH PROBLEM AND THE TOTAL BIOMASS. EXCEPT FOR AN AGREED ZERO QUOTA FOR HADDOCK AND POSSIBLY QUOTAS FOR HERRING AND MACKEREL TO BE ESTABLISHED AT A SPECIAL MEETING IN JANUARY 1974, THERE WILL BE NO QUOTAS FOR SUBAREAS 5 AND 6 IN 1974 UNLESS FURTHER QUOTAS ARE AGREED TO AT A LATER DATE.

E. WHILE SEVERAL DELEGATIONS EXPRESSED A WILLINGNESS TO ACCEPT THE U. S. PROPOSAL THAT VESSELS OVER 200 GROSS TONS USE ONLY PELAGIC FISHING GEAR IN SHALLOW WATERS OFF SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND, OTHER DELEGATIONS EXPRESSED THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NEED FOR MORE TIME TO STUDY THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE PROPOSAL.

F. ALL BUT ONE MEMBER STATE ANNOUNCED THEIR INTENT TO WITHDRAW ALL RESERVATIONS LIMITING INSPECTION UNDER THE ICNAF JOINT ENFORCEMENT SCHEME AND THAT STATE INDICATED THAT THE QUESTION OF WITHDRAWING ITS RESERVATIONS WAS

UNDER STUDY. THE COMMISSION APPOINTED A WORKING GROUP TO EXAMINE POSSIBLE FURTHER IMPROVEMENTS IN THE SCHEME OF JOINT ENFORCEMENT INCLUDING THE U. S. PROPOSAL REGARDING DETENTION OF VESSELS INVOLVED IN SIGNIFICANT VIOLATIONS.

G. THE COMMISSION ADOPTED A SUGGESTION FOR AN ADDITIONAL SPECIAL MEETING IN SEPTEMBER OR OCTOBER TO ADDRESS THE UNRESOLVED QUESTIONS ON EFFORT REDUCTION OR OVERALL

QUOTA FOR SUBAREAS 5 AND 6, INDIVIDUAL QUOTAS AND THE U. S. REGULATORY PROPOSAL CONCERNING FISHING GEAR. THE U. S. DELEGATION DID NOT AGREE TO THE SUGGESTION BUT INDICATED THAT THE U. S. GOVERNMENT WOULD CONSIDER THIS SUGGESTION AMONG OTHER OPTIONS AVAILABLE TO IT TO ENSURE ADEQUATE PROTECTION FOR THE COASTAL SPECIES AND THE U. S. FISHING INDUSTRY.

H. THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT IS CONSIDERING ON AN URGENT BASIS THE VARIOUS MEANS AVAILABLE TO IT TO ENSURE THAT THE VALUABLE COASTAL RESOURCES ARE PROTECTED AND THAT THE INTERESTS OF THE AMERICAN FISHERMEN ARE FURTHERED.

2. IF PRESSED, GOV OFFICIALS WILL RESPOND THAT QTE VARIOUS MEANS AVAILABLE UNQTE OBVIOUSLY INCLUDES A THOROUGH REVALUATION OF THE ADVANTAGES OF CONTINUED MEMBERSHIP IN ICNAF. AT THIS TIME NO OFFICIAL DECISION HAS BEEN MADE. ONCE THE U. S. DELEGATION HAS RETURNED, A COMPLETE ANALYSIS OF THE MEETING AND CONSULTATIONS WILL BE UNDERTAKEN WITH CONCERNED OFFICIALS IN WASHINGTON.

3. POSITIONS TAKEN AS REPORTED REF WILL NOT BE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ATTRIBUTED TO SPECIFIC MEMBER STATES. ROGERS

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*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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